

REMARKS

The specification and claims have been amended as needed to take care of formal matters.

Claim 1 has been amended as both as to form and so as to specify that the strip forming the invented reinforcement, is solid. This is in sharp contrast to the prior art, in which cords or cables or filaments were embedded in parallel relationship or else, as in the applied reference which is WO 83/01665, in the form of a woven material. See Page 4, line 2-12, of the applied reference, which can be translated from French as follows:

The armature 1 can be constituted by a winding, in the surface of the neutral fiber of the belt, of fibers braided in a cable or not, of metal or metal alloy. It can be also be constituted by an endless woven braid in tubular form so as not to have a connection (a connection always being cause for premature rupture). Finally, this armature can be constituted by a very thin ribbon, as wide as the armature, and wound several times on itself in the form of a spiral. In all of these cases, the armature will have a thickness of the order of one millimeter.

By contrast, the reinforcing element of the present invention is a very thin strip which is flat and solid. The resulting belt is suitable for application in a continuous variable transmission, where the variable radii of the pulleys and especially their smallest radius require high pulling strength with high flexibility of the load bearing tensile element.

Another disadvantage of the structure of the applied reference is that the cords or cables or spiral strip tend to cut through the surrounding material and/or the transverse elements at high loads or at high contact pressures and/or when the minimal pulley radii are used.

Furthermore, at the intersections of the cords or cables or spiral round strip, there results an increased thickness, which is local and provides weak spots in the surrounding material. At these weak spots, the cords or cables or spiral wound strip tend to cut into and through the surrounding material.

Thus, not only does the present invention provide an armature which is at least several times thinner than that of the applied reference, but also it provides an armature which, no matter how flexed, will not damage the material in which it is embedded, and also an armature which is useful about bending arcs of the smallest radius.

There is, of course, no obvious way to derive these features from the applied reference, so that the claims as now amended are patentable over that reference, and reconsideration and allowance are respectfully requested.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future submissions, to charge any deficiency or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 25-0120 for any

additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.16 or under 37
C.F.R. § 1.17.

Respectfully submitted,

YOUNG & THOMPSON

/Robert J. Patch/
Robert J. Patch, Reg. No. 17,355
Customer No. 00466
209 Madison Street, Suite 500
Alexandria, VA 22314
Telephone (703) 521-2297
Telefax (703) 685-0573
(703) 979-4709

RJP/jlw